

Northern Tier's Top Ten

1. *Northern Tier is the oldest of the National High Adventure Bases.*

- In 1923, Carlos S. Chase first led a group of Boy Scouts into the Boundary Waters/Quetico Provincial Park area and Northern Tier National High Adventure Programs were born. During the next few years, these trips grew in popularity and by 1926; BWCAW/Quetico canoe programs were officially adopted as the "Region Ten Canoe Trails" project. In 1942, the Hod Ludlow Lodge was dedicated and the base became known as "Charles L. Sommers Wilderness Canoe Base".

2. *There is no National High Adventure Base named Northern Tier.*

- The flag ship base is the Charles L. Sommers Wilderness Canoe Base. The oldest High Adventure Base of the National Boy Scouts of America. In 1973, the first base in Canada was established the Northern Expeditions Canoe Base in Bissett, Manitoba and it was followed a few years later with the Don Rogert Canoe Base in Atikokan, Ontario. The three bases are now collectively known as the Northern Tier National High Adventure Programs.

3. *Two of the Northern Tier National High Adventure Bases are on foreign soil.*

- The Don Rogert Canoe Base and the Northern Expeditions Canoe Base are located in Canada. So Scouts and Ventures wanting to experience a different culture can visit USA's neighbors to the north.

4. *Northern Tier National High Adventure Bases are almost all inclusive.*

- Regardless of which Northern Tier High Adventure trip you choose, we can outfit your expedition. Whether you are canoeing in the BWCA/Quetico, exploring a beautiful Canadian lake or escaping to a remote wilderness fly-in adventure, we offer state-of-the-art equipment for trekking into the canoe country. Our standard canoes are rugged aluminum, but we also provide the extra-cost option (at the Atikokan and Ely bases) of lightweight Kevlar and fiberglass canoes. We have spacious Granite Gear personal gear packs and Kondos equipment packs. Our tents are freestanding Outfitter models with mosquito netting and rain flies. We provide nylon trail tarps for rain protection, Coast Guard approved life jackets, paddles, cooking utensils, nesting pots, trail ovens for baking and ropes to hang food packs. Each crew is outfitted with an emergency communications system.

All Northern Tier bases offer outstanding trail food. We combine retort (foil can) meats and fresh goods to create trail meals that taste as good as home-cooking. You choose the amounts of many of the items and every crew has the benefit of up-to date information on menus, equipment and techniques developed from over 87 years of outfitting experience. At Northern Tier we believe that quality gear and good food are the cornerstones to a great trip. We also believe in education and provide qualified instruction in canoeing, cooking, low impact camping, fishing, and wilderness safety skills.

You'll need to provide personal items such as clothing, rain gear, sleeping bag, eating utensils, toiletries, fishing licenses, a first aid kit, maps, and any specialized equipment. We'll provide the rest.

5. *Northern Tier National High Adventure Bases is also the National Cold Weather Camping Development Center for the Boy Scouts of America.*

- The National Cold-Weather Camping Development Center of the Boy Scouts of America is located at the Charles L. Sommers High Adventure Base at Ely, Minnesota. This center provides materials and specializes in problems associated with cold-weather camping. The center shares this information with councils and other organizations through a variety of methods.

6. *The Coleman Peak One Backpacking Stove and the Paddle sports PFD was developed in concept for the Northern Tier National High Adventure Bases.*

- Sandy Bridges, Northern Tier Bases Director from 1972 to 1997 helped develop the Coleman Peak One Backpacking Stove when the Quetico-Superior Parks banned open fires. The only stoves available were surplus World War II Stoves, Sandy found that they were heavy and unreliable so he developed the idea of a “Pocket Stove” and took it to the Coleman Company. Six months later the Coleman Peak One Stove made its way into the market place.

In the late 1960's a drowning death of a young Scout propelled Sandy to develop a new style of PFD. At that time Northern Tier was using the Coast Guard Type II “horse collar” PFD which was very bulky. Guides and crew members refused to wear them. After tinkering with a non-Coast Guard approved fishing style PFD made by Stearns Manufacturing Company, Sandy came up with an idea. By using more mesh in the shoulders he was able to keep the jacket cool and less bulky. Maurice O'Link, Stearn's President thought they idea was good and was a supporter of Scouting. After navigating the federal codes for PFD's, Stearns developed a prototype that looked good to Sandy. Stearn's supplied the 1972 summer Olympics U.S. kayaking team with the ‘Sans Souci’ PFD, calling it a canoe/kayak vest. The “Sans Souci” PFD is the forefather for most modern Paddle sports PFD designs.

7. *Will crews see any wildlife when they come to a Northern Tier base?*

- Moose, bear, deer, wolfs, beaver, fox, otters, mini-bears (chipmunks) and bald eagles, these are just a few of the animals that Scouts and Venturers see EVERY DAY on the trail at Northern Tier.

8. *The Northern Expeditions Canoe Base is the ONLY National High Adventure Bases that starts and ends every trek with a ride in a Floatplane.*

- Crews choosing the adventure and challenge of a Northern Expeditions Canoe Base trip will begin with a program and outfitting at our modern base on the outskirts of Bissett, Manitoba. Bissett is known for its rich gold mining heritage and as a jumping off spot to some of the best wilderness adventure anywhere. It's also on the edge of the Atikaki Provincial Park, a great destination for trophy fishing and remote trips.

Your trip starts with an exciting floatplane ride north into the Canadian bush. Your crew will enjoy the opportunity to overlook some of the beautiful and rugged terrain in which you will be traveling and to enjoy the romance of the Canadian bush pilot experience.

9. *No two trips are ever the same on a Northern Tier trek.*

- Due to the fact that Crews do not decide where they will be heading until they get to a Northern Tier base, no two treks are ever the same. Do you want to paddle a lot of miles? Do you want to go to Canada? Do you want to paddle from base to base? Do you want to see pictographs? Or do you just want to fish? Every Crew answers questions like this differently. Our Interpreters (Wilderness Guides) help your Crew plan and execute a custom trip, just for you.

10. *The lakes and rivers around Northern Tier's base have the greatest fresh water fishing in North America.*

- The lakes surrounding the bases are renowned for their spectacular fishing. Walleye, northern pike, and smallmouth bass are the Invitational's target. With fishing in the legendary Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Quetico Provincial Park, or the Atikaki Park, the “big one” is just waiting to get caught!